

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A), PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: RABIN VISIT: SUGGESTED TOAST FOR SECRETARY'S
JANUARY 27 LUNCHEON

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TOAST FOR SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON
IN HONOR OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN JANUARY 27.

2. MR PRIME MINISTER -- MRS RABIN -- LEAH AND YITZHAK-
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

3. IT IS A GREAT PERSONAL AS WELL AS OFFICIAL PLEASURE FOR
ME TO WELCOME YOU BACK AS OLD FRIENDS TO WASHINGTON. ON
SUCH OCCASIONS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO GIVE IN TO THE
TEMPTATION TO REMINISCE. WHAT COMES IMMEDIATELY TO MY
MIND ARE MEMORIES OF THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER. IT
WAS AT THE END OF TWELVE ARDUOUS DAYS OF SHUTTLING BETWEEN
JERUSALEM AND ALEXANDRIA. AS HAD HAPPENED COUNTLESS TIMES
BEFORE, THE EVENING BEGAN WITH THE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN
NEGOTIATING TEAMS SEATED AROUND THE TABLE IN THE PRIME
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MINISTER'S OFFICE. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, WE HAD BEFORE US

THE TASK OF COMPLETING MANY REMAINING DETAILS TO MEET THE DEADLINE WE HAD SET FOR OURSELVES OF INITIALING THE SINAI AGREEMENT THE NEXT DAY IN JERUSALEM AND ALEXANDRIA.

4. IF ANYONE THINKS THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FRIENDS ARE EASY, HE DOES NOT KNOW THE UNIQUE QUALITY OF AMERICAN-ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP. BEFORE WE HAD FINISHED, THE SOUNDS OF A NEW DAY COULD BE HEARD AND SOON THE LIGHT OF DAWN WAS COMING THROUGH THE WINDOWS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. WE COMPLETED OUR WORK ABOUT 6:00 AM ON WHAT WAS, APPROPRIATELY, LABOR DAY IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. NO ONE CAN GO THROUGH SUCH AN INTENSE PERIOD OF PERSONAL ASSOCIATION, ARRIVING FINALLY AT AGREEMENT IN THE END, WITHOUT ESTABLISHING BONDS OF MEMORY, AND NEW DEPTHS OF RESPECT THAT ENDURE FAR BEYOND THE EVENT ITSELF.

6. IT HAS BEEN ALMOST FIVE MONTHS SINCE THAT NIGHT, MR. PRIME MINISTER, AND YOU ARE NOW HERE AS THE GUEST OF PRESIDENT FORD -- NOT ONLY TO REVIEW ALL THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED UNDER HIS AND YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT ALSO TO LOOK FOR WAYS OF CONTINUING THAT SEARCH.

7. AS WE PAUSE TODAY IN OUR WORK, I WANT TO PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR HONORED GUEST, THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL. IT STRIKES ME AS ESPECIALLY FITTING IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR THAT YOUR ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES WAS IN PHILADELPHIA WHERE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS PROCLAIMED. ITS AUTHOR, THOMAS JEFFERSON, REMARKED IN HIS FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS THAT "SOMETIMES IT IS SAID THAT MAN CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF HIMSELF. CAN HE, THEN, BE TRUSTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF OTHERS? OR HAVE WE FOUND ANGELS IN THE FORMS OF KINGS TO GOVERN HIM? LET HISTORY ANSWER THIS QUESTION."

8. YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER, HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE GIFT OF GOVERNING, WHICH REQUIRES, AMONG MANY ATTRIBUTES, COURAGE, PRAGMATISM AND FORESIGHT. YOUR COMMITMENT TO A NEGOTIATED PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS AN EXAMPLE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE QUALITIES. WE ALL KNOW HOW DIFFICULT THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE. NEVERTHELESS, THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF THE LEADERS CONCERNED TO AVERT THE SUFFERINGS OF ANOTHER WAR ENABLED THE ACHIEVEMENT, SINCE THE 1973 WAR, OF THE TWO SINAI AGREEMENTS AND THE ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

9. MR PRIME MINISTER, AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMITMENT OF THE

UNITED STATES TO THE EXISTENCE AND SECURITY OF ISRAEL
HAS REMAINED A CORNERSTONE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF
EVERY ADMINISTRATION SINCE ISRAEL'S INCEPTION. WE REMAIN

EQUALLY COMMITTED TO A NEGOTIATING PROCESS BASED ON U.N.
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 LEADING TO A JUST
AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HAVE MADE AMPLY
CLEAR IN THE COUNCIL IN RECENT DAYS OUR DETERMINATION TO
PRESERVE THIS FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS DELICATE
BALANCE OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF ALL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE.

10. WE MUST NOW MAKE EQUALLY CLEAR OUR DETERMINATION TO
BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THAT FRAMEWORK, SO THAT THE PROCESS
OF NEGOTIATIONS CAN GO FORWARD IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE
HAVE LEARNED FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE -- IN 1967 AND AGAIN
IN 1973 -- THE COSTS OF STALEMATE. THE AGONY OF ANOTHER
WAR TO THE WORLD, BUT ABOVE ALL TO THE INTREPID PEOPLE OF
ISRAEL -- HOWEVER IT ENDED -- WOULD BE INFINITELY GREATER
THAN THE AGONIES OF THE DECISIONS AND COMPROMISES WHICH
LIE AHEAD. IT IS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL CANNOT MAKE PEACE AT
ANY PRICE, BUT IT IS EQUALLY CLEAR THAT PEACE CANNOT BE
ACHIEVED WITHOUT A PRICE AND WITHOUT RISKS. THIS APPLIES
EQUALLY TO ALL PARTIES AND WOULD-BE PARTIES TO THE
NEGOTIATIONS. ALL MUST MAKE SACRIFICES, AND ALL MUST
BELIEVE AT THE END THAT THEIR VITAL ASPIRATIONS HAVE AT
LEAST IN PART BEEN MET ON TERMS THAT THEY CAN FEEL ARE
HONORABLE.

11. THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS MUST BE
CONTINUED AND, IF POSSIBLE, ACCELERATED. MR. PRIME
MINISTER, YOU AND THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORING
STATES, HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF
ENCOURAGING THE MODERATE FORCES OF REASON TO TAKE FURTHER
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CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD PEACE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. IF
REASON PREVAILS, THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST WILL SHARE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THEIR GOALS IN LIFE IN AN
ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

12. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST
TO OUR HONORED VISITORS, PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND MRS.
RABIN, TO
THE FRIENDSHIP OF ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES, AND TO A
JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SISCO

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